



Peckham and Nunhead Community Council

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Peckham and Nunhead Community Council held on Wednesday 19 June 2013 at 7.00 pm at Harris Academy Peckham, 112 Peckham Road, London SE15 5DZ

PRESENT:

Councillor Althea Smith
Councillor Chris Brown
Councillor Fiona Colley
Councillor Rowenna Davis
Councillor Nick Dolezal
Councillor Gavin Edwards
Councillor Renata Hamvas
Councillor Catherine McDonald
Councillor Victoria Mills
Councillor Michael Situ

OFFICER SUPPORT:

Matthew Hill (Public Realm Programme Manager)
Jillian Houghton (Project Officer)
Alastair Huggett (Planning Projects Manager)
Jay Daisi (Service Development Officer)
Paul Jeffrey (Travellers Officer)
Marian Farrugia (Community Council Development Officer)
Beverley Olamijulo (Constitutional Officer)

1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

As the chair was not present, the vice chair Councillor Althea Smith chaired the meeting.

The chair welcomed councillors, members of the public and officers to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

There were apologies for absence from Councillors Barrie Hargrove, Richard Livingstone and Cleo Soanes. An apology for lateness was received on behalf of Councillor Victoria Mills.

3. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

4. ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

The chair agreed to accept as late and urgent the following items:

Item 6 – Deputation request

Item 15 – Highways Capital Investment 2013 -14

In addition to the above there were responses from public questions raised at the last meeting.

5. MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 April 2013 be agreed as a correct record of that meeting and signed by the chair.

6. DEPUTATION PRESENTATION

RESOLVED:

That the deputation request from residents of Pelican Estate be heard.

The chair explained that the spokesperson for the deputation would be given five minutes to speak followed by questions for five minutes.

Margaret Russell, spokesperson for the deputation addressed the meeting and outlined that she wished to raise the issue about money owed to council tenants when their housing or council tax accounts are in credit. Margaret expressed concern about this affecting residents like the elderly and disadvantaged people that were vulnerable.

Margaret explained when a tenant's rent /council tax account had overpayments on it they would be used up on their accounts and not refunded back to the tenant. She added that if you fell behind in payments the council would send reminders about it. Margaret asked if the council could do an audit detailing how many people were currently in credit of their rent or council tax and whether they were entitled to receive a refund. Also if the council should set up systems for residents that has overpayments on their rent or council tax accounts.

Following questions, the spokesperson mentioned that she had not been in contact with her local ward councillors about this matter. Councillor Colley said she would speak to the relevant cabinet member, Councillor Richard Livingstone about this issue.

It was noted that those services would now be run by the council whereas before it was outsourced to a private company who managed the housing rent accounts and council tax accounts.

The chair thanked Margaret Russell for her deputation.

7. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

The following announcements were made:

Southwark Star Awards

The chair congratulated local people and organisations that were nominated for awards at the recent Southwark Stars event. The awards went to those that were considered truly exceptional members of the community. The Peckham and Nunhead area featured in the list of exceptional people that had made a difference in other people's lives and whose volunteering had made an outstanding contribution to their community in Southwark over the last year.

The following people from the Peckham and Nunhead area received awards:

- N. Okwulu for the Community Activist award
- J. Mason from the Ledbury Estate for the Residents' Champion award
- Copleston Centre for governance and also for their volunteers

The following organisations and community groups based in the Peckham and Nunhead also received awards:

- Brayards Estate TRA
- St George's Pop In
- Young people from WiseGem Young People & Family Organisation some of whom help out at community council meetings
- World of Hope
- 1st Place Children and Parents' Centre

Future themes

At a previous Peckham and Nunhead community council meeting people were given the opportunity to prioritise items and themes for future meetings. The top three priorities chosen by attendees were:

- Older people, held on 2 March 2013 at Peckham Methodist Church
- Environmental issues held on 21 November 2012 at St Mary Magdalene Church
- Children Young People, to be scheduled in September or November 2013

In addition people identified crime as a priority, because of this regular community safety updates would be considered at each meeting. Also a safer neighbourhoods' team stall at each meeting.

Other topics identified as a priority was housing and more information about job / training opportunities for local people.

People were asked to suggest topics that they would like to discuss as themes for the following year by completing the feedback forms that were handed out at the meeting.

Presentation on community safety issues

The meeting received an update on community safety issues in the local area.

Sergeant Jenkinson from Livesey safer neighbourhood team gave a brief overview of what has happened since the last meeting:

- The Lane neighbourhood team executed drug warrants after a large quantity of cannabis was seized and taken away to a forensics science lab. The team were awaiting evidence to substantiate whether the person involved was supplying the drugs.
- Joint operation with the CID with regard to stolen mobile phones in the Rye Lane area. The team want to establish whether some shops in Rye Lane were handling stolen goods as it was reported that some stolen phones were from street robberies. The team are focussing on those shops in conjunction with trading standards on a problem solving basis. Sgt Jenkinson mentioned the SNT would monitor the situation with assistance from trading standards to check whether their stock was legitimate.
- Community safety officers had been involved in personal safety talks with elderly residents on their ward focussed on deception type burglary. This involved individuals that claimed to be from various building firms or water board companies.
- The Nunhead neighbourhood team executed warrants and seized class A drugs at a property, the person they were looking for had turned up at the address and further drugs were confiscated from the individual. This was an overall success for the team as they continue to tackle this problem.
- The Peckham neighbourhood team executed drug warrants at Meeting House Lane and Pennethorne Road.

Sgt Jenkinson then talked about the introduction of the local safer neighbourhood teams in the Peckham area where all five teams had joined together with an emphasis on patrolling and dealing with crimes. Each SNT ward will have a beat officer and one dedicated PCSO. He reported that a recent police press release stated that 2600 police officers would be assigned into the safer neighbourhood teams across London which would mean their roles and responsibilities including the investigation of neighbourhood crime would change as well.

The neighbourhood inspector would have the flexibility to direct dedicated police officers unrestricted across ward boundaries especially where there was an increase in crime so it

could be tackled quickly. The sergeant explained there would be contact points for people to gain access to police services. Also front line offices at Walworth Police Station would be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Peckham Police Station would be open from 7 am to 11 pm and Southwark Police Station open from 10 am until 6 pm. There would be additional contact points at the Kingswood office, Bellenden Road, Canada Water Library and Dulwich Library.

The sergeant outlined the police objectives until 2015 which was to cut crime by 20%, improve police confidence by 20%, and cut costs by 20%.

Sgt Jenkinson took questions from the audience. The chair thanked the presenter and announced that future arrangements on local policing would be announced officially by the Mayor of London in June.

The chair mentioned there was a public meeting on 27 June 2013 at 29 Peckham Road where Police Inspector, Rob Harper would provide a full update on these proposals.

8. NUNHEAD REGENERATION PROGRAMME AND IMPROVEMENTS (NUNHEAD GREEN)

Jillian Houghton from the planning projects team within the planning department presented this item.

The officer explained she was leading on a programme of regeneration within the Nunhead area and currently coordinated a number of projects which looked at public realm improvements, working with local businesses, shop front improvements, community engagement and building on the really good festivals that Nunhead already had.

The regeneration projects are supported by the Mayor's office, through the Outer London Fund (OLF) and other types of funding like the Pocket Park fund. The officer outlined that there were strong elements in the Nunhead area which are being built on like the Nunhead cemetery, local independent businesses, good traffic links, and the library as well. So it was evident there are good community services there. Jillian also mentioned there was a good established community in Nunhead and there had been an influx of people that had moved into the area which had changed the demographic of Nunhead.

Jillian reported on the number of projects that had been achieved in the programme and what the planning projects team were working on and would continue to work on over the coming year, which is the duration of the regeneration programme. One of the first things officers worked on with community members was the development of a Nunhead website which had a list of local businesses in the local area that acted as a business directory. The services they provide included a list of community facilities, information about community groups and regeneration projects. People took note of the website address: www.lovenunhead.co.uk

Jillian urged people to look at the website to check out updated information on local events and festivals in Nunhead. Another project was "bags for life" which was an incentive scheme to encourage people to use these bags instead of plastic bags and to shop locally.

The team were putting final touches to this year's festival programme and were supporting

the free film festival which had taken place in Nunhead and Peckham over the last few years, and was well attended. Jillian spoke about the development of an arts trail, which encourages people to visit an artist's home in order to view their work as well working with local businesses on arts and music. Jillian said they had created Nunhead bunting that would be used specially for the festival. Information dates on local festivals were available on the website.

Jillian spoke about Nunhead's new businesses and improvements to shop fronts. The team took on the responsibility of a shop unit which was in state of disrepair where work had to be done both internally and externally. The shop was used as a drop in centre every Tuesday and was now a pop up shop. Another regeneration project was Nunhead Green; the team received a lot of community input on what should eventually happen to the space. Also there were other public realm projects which involved improvements to lighting and resurfacing pavements making it safer to walk in the evening.

Councillor Colley thanked Jillian and her team for all the hard work they had done to make this regeneration project a success.

The chair thanked Jillian for the presentation.

9. WELFARE REFORM CHANGES - FURTHER UPDATE AND FACT SHEET

Jay Daisi from revenue and benefits presented this item. He referred to the update and fact sheet on pages 20 to 22 of the agenda. He spoke about the changes that had already taken place with regard to the government's welfare reform.

He said the majority of people in the local area would be affected one way or another by these changes and those that had not yet been implemented. Jay explained that residents would be asked to pay at least 15% of their tax. Many residents in the Peckham and Nunhead area would be affected with the introduction of the bedroom tax, if two or more rooms are unoccupied, tax would be paid on this. .

Jay also referred to the income related benefits and the impact this would have on people. The disability allowance would be replaced with a personal independence payment that was newly introduced in June 2013. The universal credit would roll out in October 2013 and have a significant impact on residents. Jay said he could not address all of the issues; however people needed to be aware of the changes.

People were encouraged to attend the welfare road show that would take place on 18 July 2013 at the Buchan tenants and residents Hall, Nunhead SE15 3HQ.

10. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The following public questions were submitted at the meeting:

Q1

Southwark encourages people to use their website; some residents especially the elderly do not have access to a computer. The free phone number usually has a waiting period of 30 minutes or more which then would cost the caller. Does the council have a free phone

number or free computers available?

A1

The chair explained the council does not provide free computers. A resident from the audience mentioned the Southwark Group of Tenants Organisation (SGTO) were selling reconditioned computers at a cost of £24 for each computer and reconditioned laptops at £75 each.

Q2

A resident said he bought a car recently and went along to his local post office to obtain the necessary documentation. During this period whilst waiting for his documents to arrive, he had his car clamped, ticketed and vandalised because he did not have a car tax disc and had to park elsewhere after he continuously paid for parking fines?

A2

The resident was asked to refer this matter to the council's parking services.

Q3

A resident spoke about the Pennant area in East Peckham which previously suffered bouts of anti social behaviour and a high level of crime during the day. These problems have started to resurface?

A3

Ask the Police to monitor the situation.

Q4

When are young people going to be heard particularly where their views are concerned especially with regard to police organisations?

A4

The chair said the young people would be contacted in future.

Q5

A resident asked about the council's customer call centre: I tried to contact the events team over a period of two months finally got through via the complaints team. How are the council going to prevent this from happening again?

A5

Response from Councillor Colley: Accepted that the council's call centre could have been better than what it was before. The council has ended its contract with previous contractors. The council's call centre is now in-house are based at Queen's Road, Peckham and it was hoped that there would be significant improvement.

Q6

What plans are there for the travellers' site?

A6

The Travellers officer confirmed that currently all Southwark traveller sites are the responsibility of the council's planning department. In regards to the previous public question regarding the old electrical intake, the officer stated that the council were trying to

ascertain ownership to disconnect the supply as the intake is owned by electricity company, EDF.

11. COMMUNITY COUNCIL QUESTION TO COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

The following community council question to council assembly was submitted and agreed at the meeting:

"What is the council doing about general improvements in the Peckham Town centre area including Rye Lane and Peckham High Street, in particular shop fronts, and what steps are being taken to attract different retailers in this area, due to the number of empty retail shops? Please confirm whether there is a lottery grant available to carry out these improvements?"

The chair announced that a response to this would be provided at the next community council meeting.

12. GORDON ROAD AND HARDERS ROAD - SECOND STAGE CONTROLLED PARKING ZONE CONSULTATION

Note: This item is an executive function

Members considered the information in the report.

RESOLVED:

That the position and type of parking bays and restrictions for Gordon Road, Harders Road and Nazareth Gardens (as an extension of Peckham B parking zone), as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report be approved subject to the outcome of any necessary statutory procedures.

13. LOCAL PARKING AMENDMENTS

Note: This item is an executive function

Members considered the information in the report.

RESOLVED:

1. That the following local parking amendments, detailed in the appendices of the report be approved for implementation subject to the outcome of any necessary statutory procedures:
 - 270 Consort Road installation of one disabled persons' (blue badge) parking bay.
 - Stanbury Road installation of one disabled persons' (blue badge) parking bay.

- Wingfield Street installation of one disabled persons' (blue badge) parking bay.
 - Kelvington Road installation of one disabled persons' (blue badge) parking bay.
 - Keston Road installation of one disabled persons' (blue badge) parking bay.
 - 151 Consort Road installation of one disabled persons' (blue badge) parking bay.
 - Borland Road installation of one disabled persons' (blue badge) parking bay.
 - Chesterfield Way – installation of double yellow lines at southern end of street to protect vehicle entrance to No.37 (subject to additional consultation letter to residents).
 - Elm Grove – proposals amended so that a loading bay outside No. 4 Elm Grove operates at any time but with “goods vehicle only” limit removed.
2. That the following local parking amendment detailed in the appendices to the report, be deferred for additional information to be considered:
- Linden Grove – to consult further with residents as the current parking restrictions already limits the number of car parking spaces in this area.

14. CLEANER GREENER SAFER (CGS) CAPITAL FUNDING PROGRAMME (REALLOCATION)

Note: This item is an executive function.

Members considered the information in the report.

RESOLVED:

That the financial savings and deficits for relevant projects be noted and the reallocation of a total of £24,000 to a new project from the 2013 /14 applications as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be approved.

Project to be cancelled

Project name	Year of award	Reason for cancellation /under spend	Original award	Amount returned to former Peckham community council
CGS000611 – Livesey Museum Entrance, creative improvements to the entrance wall.	2007 – 2008	The museum closed in 2008. The council has been developing a future for the building with local groups to find a permanent, sustainable and affordable use for the museum, that is in line with the original bequeath. Capital works cannot be undertaken whilst the use is in development.	£24,000	£24,000

New Project

Project name	Purpose of the project	Funding required
168097 Children’s Playground at Old Lindley Estate	This project will renew the children’s playground; provide a safe place for local children to play and a meeting point for local families.	£24,000
Total funding required for new and existing projects		£24,000

15. COMMUNITY COUNCIL HIGHWAYS CAPITAL INVESTMENT

Note: This item is an executive function.

The report had not been circulated 5 clear working days in advance of the meeting as the item was not finalised until after the agenda despatch date.

Members considered the information in the report.

RESOLVED:

That the item be deferred to the next Peckham and Nunhead Community Council meeting on 30 September 2013, so that consultation can take place on the highways proposed schemes in the Peckham and Nunhead community council area, that were considered for funding.

Meeting ended at 9.15 pm

CHAIR:

DATED: